United Nations A/RES/56/109

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 20 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.57 and Add.1)*]

56/109. Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992, 48/206 of 21 December 1993, 50/134 of 20 December 1995, 52/172 of 16 December 1997 and 54/97 of 8 December 1999, as well as resolution 55/171 of 14 December 2000 on closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of those resolutions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and complexity and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

Expressing profound concern at the ongoing effects of the consequences of the accident on the lives and health of people, in particular children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other affected countries,

Acknowledging the importance of the national efforts being undertaken by the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Emphasizing that it is important for the authorities of the affected countries to cooperate fully in and facilitate efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, including the efforts by non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance, and appreciating the progress already made in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by States and by organizations of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the activities of regional and other organizations and those of non-governmental organizations, as well as bilateral activities,

Recognizing the importance of continuing international support to the national efforts of the Governments and civil societies of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as the most affected countries, to mitigate and minimize the persisting negative effects of the Chernobyl disaster on the sustainable development of the affected areas as a result of the radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental consequences of the disaster,

Welcoming the increased role played by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in helping to address both the developmental and the humanitarian consequences of the catastrophe,

Noting the United Nations needs-assessment mission to the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in July and August 2001, as well as the visit of the Deputy United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to those countries in October 2001, and emphasizing the need to consider incorporation of their findings and outcomes into the new United Nations strategy to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 54/97,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations plays an important catalytic and coordinating role in the strengthening of international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and commends the contribution made by all other relevant multilateral mechanisms to this end;

2. *Welcomes* the practical measures that have been taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to strengthen coordination of the international efforts in that area, especially the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Regional Director for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States as Deputy United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl;

3. *Also welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system, members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl to implement a new developmental approach to studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and requests the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl to continue further its activities to that end;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of full cooperation and assistance by the authorities of the affected countries in facilitating the work of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, notes the measures already taken by the Governments of the affected countries in this regard, and encourages them to take further measures to simplify their relevant internal

[1] A/56/447.

procedures and to identify ways in which their systems of granting exemption from customs and other duties can be made more effective with regard to goods provided free of charge as humanitarian assistance by humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations;

5. *Acknowledges* the difficulties faced by the most affected countries in minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and invites States, in particular donor States and all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, to continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, including through the allocation of additional funds to support medical, social, economic and ecological programmes related to the disaster;

6. *Notes* the appeal by the United Nations Coordinator to the donor community to consider allocating additional resources to the humanitarian aspects of the Chernobyl disaster;

7. *Stresses* the need for coordinated international cooperation in studying the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, and invites Member States and all interested parties to take part in and to promote the activities of the International Chernobyl Centre for nuclear safety, radioactive waste and radioecology as an important mechanism of scientific research in the unique conditions of the Chernobyl zone and the Shelter facility;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and, through existing coordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Coordinator, to continue to maintain close cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and other relevant organizations, while implementing specific Chernobyl-related programmes and projects;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consider possible ways to strengthen further the coordination, analytical and technical capacities of the United Nations in the field, as well as at Headquarters, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] with due regard to the existing administrative and budgetary procedures of the Organization;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, under a separate sub-item, a report containing a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of all aspects of the present resolution and proposals for innovative measures for optimizing the effectiveness of the response of the international community to the Chernobyl disaster.

87th plenary meeting
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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

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56/110. Economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/96 G of 15 December 1999 and 55/170 of 14 December 2000,

Recalling also the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, adopted in Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999, and endorsed at the Sarajevo Summit of 30 July 1999, and emphasizing the crucial importance of its implementation,

Stressing the importance of the regional cooperation initiatives, assistance arrangements and organizations, such as the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the Danube Commission, as well as the Stabilization and Association process and other arrangements for the Eastern European States with the European Union,

Noting the leading role played by the high-level steering group for South-Eastern Europe, under the joint chairmanship of the European Commission and the World Bank, in guiding the donor coordination process for the economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development of the region, in close cooperation with the Stability Pact,

Mindful of the positive results of the two regional funding conferences for South-Eastern Europe organized by the European Commission and the World Bank in cooperation with the Stability Pact, held in Brussels on 29 and 30 March 2000 and in Bucharest on 25 and 26 October 2001, and of the progress achieved in mobilizing and coordinating support of the donor community and international financial institutions for reconstruction and development efforts in South-Eastern Europe,

Welcoming the democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and their positive effects on peace, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe,

Welcoming also the positive results of the International Donors Conference for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, co-hosted by the World Bank and the European Commission in Brussels on 29 June 2001, and the progress achieved in mobilizing

and coordinating support of the donor community and international financial institutions for the reconstruction and development of Yugoslavia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the conclusions contained therein,

1. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of special economic problems confronting the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans, in particular their impact on regional trade and economic relations and on the navigation along the Danube and on the Adriatic Sea;

2. *Welcomes* the support already provided by the international community, in particular by the European Union and other major donors, to the affected States to assist them in coping with their special economic problems during the transition period following the developments in the Balkans, as well as in the longer-term process of economic recovery, structural adjustment and development in the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the objective of which is to strengthen countries in South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region, and in its follow-up activities, aimed, inter alia, at economic reconstruction, development and cooperation, including economic cooperation in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe;

4. *Invites* all States and the relevant international organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, in particular the international financial institutions, to continue to take into account the special needs and situations of the affected States in providing support and assistance to their efforts for economic recovery, structural adjustment and development;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of a well-coordinated and timely donor response to the external funding requirements of the process for economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development in the Balkans, as well as financial support to other affected countries of Eastern Europe;

6. *Encourages* the affected States of the region to continue and enhance the process of multilateral regional cooperation in the fields of transport and infrastructure development, including the resumption of full navigation on the Danube, as well as to foster conditions favourable to trade, in such areas as customs, investment and private sector development, including privatization, in all the countries of the region;

7. *Invites* the relevant international organizations to take appropriate steps, consistent with the principle of efficient and effective procurement and with the agreed measures for procurement reform, in order to broaden access for interested local and regional vendors and to facilitate their participation in the international assistance efforts for the reconstruction, recovery and development of the region;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[1] A/56/632.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

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56/111. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/173 of 14 December 2000,

Recalling also previous resolutions on the question,

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[1] as well as the signing of the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[2] and the signing of the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum on 4 September 1999,

Gravely concerned at the difficult economic and employment conditions facing the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territory,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory and the living conditions of the Palestinian people,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

Noting the convening of the United Nations seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people, held in Vienna on 20 and 21 February 2001, to review the state of the Palestinian economy,[3]

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[1] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[2] A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex.

[3] See A/56/89-E/2001/89, annex.

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration,

Noting the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat, as well as the establishment of the Consultative Group,

Welcoming also the work of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming further the results of the Ministerial Conference to Support Middle East Peace and Development, held in Washington, D.C., on 30 November 1998, and expressing appreciation for the pledges of the international donor community,

Welcoming the meeting of the Consultative Group in Frankfurt, Germany, on 4 and 5 February 1999, in particular the pledges of the international donor community and the presentation of the Palestinian Development Plan for the years 1999–2003,

Welcoming also the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held in Lisbon on 7 and 8 June 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of the recent tragic and violent events that have led to many deaths and injuries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close

[4] A/56/123-E/2001/97 and Corr.1.

cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with Palestinian priorities set forth by the Palestinian Authority, with emphasis on national execution and capacity-building;

7. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

8. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

9. *Stresses* in this context the importance of ensuring the free passage of aid to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

10. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend as rapidly as possible emergency economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people to counter the impact of the current crisis;

11. *Stresses* the need to implement the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,[2] in particular with regard to the full and prompt clearance of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

12. *Suggests* the convening in 2002 of a United Nations-sponsored seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(*a*) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(*b*) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

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56/112. Emergency assistance to the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/96 J of 17 December 1999 and its previous resolutions on emergency assistance to the Sudan,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind its resolution 55/175 of 19 December 2000 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel,

Welcoming agreed conclusions 1998/1 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted by the Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session of 1998,[1] in which, among other things, the Council reaffirmed that international cooperation to address emergency situations should be provided in accordance with international law and national laws, and that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

Welcoming also agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[2] in which the Council addressed the theme of "International cooperation and coordinated responses to humanitarian emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development", during its second humanitarian segment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to the Sudan,[3]

Welcoming the decision of the Government of the Sudan to provide access to the Nuba Mountains and recent efforts towards its implementation, noting in that regard the results of the inter-agency needs-assessment mission undertaken by the

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VII, para. 5.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 5.

[3] A/56/412.

United Nations, and calling upon all parties to continue to cooperate with the United Nations in meeting the needs identified in that assessment,

Noting with concern existing obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, welcoming the agreements reached by the parties to Operation Lifeline Sudan, among them the Rome protocol, and noting the arrangements reached on 15 August 2001 between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations inter-agency mission on the modalities of access for the Operation, aimed at facilitating delivery of relief assistance to affected populations, as well as the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in strengthening the coordination of the Operation,

Urging United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and donor countries to continue contributing and channelling their humanitarian assistance to all affected populations in the Sudan through Operation Lifeline Sudan,

Expressing concern at the continued conflict in the Sudan and its negative impact on the humanitarian situation,

Noting the ongoing peace efforts under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the initiative of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for achieving a negotiated and lasting peace in the Sudan,

Noting with appreciation the contributions for the inter-agency appeal for Operation Lifeline Sudan and the progress made in the Operation, and noting also that considerable relief needs still remain to be addressed, including assistance to combat diseases such as malaria and assistance for logistic needs, emergency recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Expressing concern at the damaging consequences of floods and drought that have occurred in various parts of the Sudan in recent years,

Calling for an early resolution to the conflict, and expressing concern that its continuation further increases the suffering of the civilian population and undermines the effectiveness of international, regional and national humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to continue to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in implementing emergency assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicine, shelter and health care, and to ensure safe and unhindered access to all affected populations,

Recognizing the need in emergency situations to ensure the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development so as to reduce dependence on external food aid and other relief services,

1. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation by the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, including the agreements and arrangements achieved to facilitate relief operations with a view to improving the conditions for United Nations assistance to the population in the affected areas, encourages the continuation of that cooperation, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to agree to comprehensive and permanent humanitarian ceasefire arrangements in order to ensure the delivery of relief assistance;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the donor community, United Nations agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations for the contributions so far made to the humanitarian needs of the Sudan, and calls upon

them to continue their assistance, in particular by responding to the consolidated appeal and providing support for programmes in the Nuba Mountains;

3. *Stresses* the need for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be operated and managed with a view to ensuring its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, with the full involvement and cooperation of the Government of the Sudan, taking cognizance of the relevant Operation Lifeline Sudan agreements reached by the parties, as well as consultations in the preparation of the consolidated annual inter-agency appeal for the Operation;

4. *Recognizes* the need for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be conducted in strict adherence to the principles of neutrality and impartiality and within the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan, and within the framework of international cooperation, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs, recovery and development of the Sudan, and urges all parties to the conflict to facilitate the achievement of those objectives;

6. *Urges* the international community to give assistance for the rehabilitation of transportation means and infrastructure vital for the provision of relief supplies in the Sudan and their cost-effectiveness, and in that context stresses the importance of continued cooperation by all the parties involved so as to facilitate and improve the delivery of relief supplies;

7. *Calls upon* the donor community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial, technical and medical assistance, guided by the actions called for by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions, to combat such diseases as malaria and other epidemics in the Sudan;

8. *Welcomes* the recent visit, upon invitation from the Government of the Sudan, of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, as well as the commitment of the Government to continue its efforts to address the problem of internally displaced persons;

9. *Urges* the international community to continue to support national and international programmes of rehabilitation, voluntary resettlement and reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons, as well as assistance to refugees;

10. *Stresses* the imperative of ensuring the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, as well as safe and unhindered access for providing relief assistance to all affected populations, and the importance of strict observance of the principles and guidelines of Operation Lifeline Sudan, and of international humanitarian law reaffirming the necessity for humanitarian personnel to respect the national laws of the Sudan;

11. *Recognizes* the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, and urges the parties to work towards that end;

12. *Urges* all parties involved to continue to offer all feasible and necessary assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, so as to guarantee the success of Operation Lifeline Sudan in all affected parts of the country, with special emphasis on national capacity-building in the humanitarian field for governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as on meeting emergency relief needs;

13. *Calls upon* all parties to respect international humanitarian law on the protection of civilians during times of war, and in that connection condemns attacks against civilians and attacks against and detention of humanitarian personnel, including the incidents leading to the deaths of fifteen humanitarian workers in the last two years, and calls for appropriate investigations into all allegations surrounding such incidents;

14. *Recalls* the signing by the Government of the Sudan of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[4] urges all parties to the conflict to desist from using them, calls upon the international community to refrain from supplying mines to the region, and urges the international community and United Nations agencies to provide appropriate assistance related to mine action in the Sudan;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the Sudan.

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[4] See CD/1478.